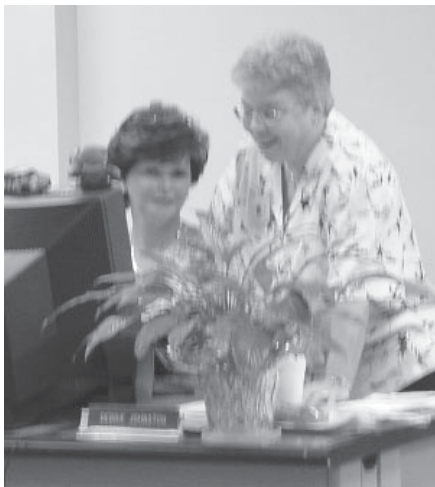


Challenge and Success: DDAG



The ability to successfully address challenges is a hallmark at Defense Distribution Depot Albany, GA (DDAG). DDAG's recent successes resulted from some of their greatest challenges.

"One of the criteria for mission success was the attainment of Defense Distribution Center (DDC) and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) performance metrics," said Col (Sel) Charles Thompson, USMC, DDAG Commander. "This task could only be achieved by having total visibility and accountability of our inventory."



*Shirley Wirth and
Deborah Johnston,
Quality Assurance
Section*

To execute this formidable task, DDAG "established an Inventory 'Tiger Team' comprised of some of our most dedicated and talented employees to do a 100% wall-to-wall inventory and location survey/count of all items on record," Thompson said. "This year-long effort has significantly enhanced our ability to provide unparalleled customer support, efficient stock management and satisfactory performance standards across the board."

One of DDAG's biggest responsibilities is supporting two U.S. Army prepositioned ships (Army Prepo). The Army keeps one of two Maritime Vessel (MV) ships, MV Titus and MV Gibson, at sea at all times, ready for any contingency that would require re-supplying of various Army units around the world. Every year one of the ships returns to the U.S. for maintenance, and not just maintenance on the ship. The cargo is off-loaded, opened, unpackaged, inspected, refilled, re-packaged, uploaded, and sent back to sea for another two years of standing ready for any contingency. "These ships can be deployed to a theater and called upon to support Army operations," Thompson said.



(Photo by Harley Mills, DDC)

Doris Stevens, Small Partial Pack

DDAG completed a successful Army Prepositioned Ships Afloat Program cycle in June 2001. This annual event took almost two months, involved the majority of the distribution center's workforce, and required receipt, inspection, and re-containerization of more than 1,200 containers.

A 30-day supply of everything but weapons and ammunition was onboard MV Titus. DDAG employees inspected uniforms, gas tanks, boots, meals ready-to-eat, chemical suits, and circuit cards, to name a few of the items involved. Every item received necessary examination and those items with expired shelf-lives were replaced. "These materials are important in sustaining the Army's war fighter," said Thompson.

Another vital mission is DDAG's Force Provider support for the Army. The Force Provider Program is often described as a contained, pre-configured, highly-deployable city.



(Photo by Harley Mills, DDC)

PFC Alexandra Philip, USA, and Specialist Tammy Vurtis, USA, from Ft Story, VA, perform inventory survey.



(Photo by Harley Mills, DDC)

William Spayberry and Obie Golden, Central Packing Operation

Force Provider containers or “modules” are packaged and stored at DDAG. These containers can be as large as a semi-truck cargo bed. Each module is packaged with specific equipment and supplies for a specific mission. Modules can be combined to build a base camp in a forward operating area. The program was developed to assist soldiers in poor environmental conditions, such as during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.



(Photo by Harley Mills, DDC)

Valerie Sanders, Receiving

A kitchen module contains stoves, ovens and other equipment necessary for cooks to prepare as many as 1,650 hot meals a day. A housing module contains sufficient tents, cots, blankets and other items needed to house 550 soldiers. A cold weather module contains heaters, generators and other equipment for cold weather operations.

These modules can be delivered by land, sea and air to any location, said Thompson. Since the United States began



(Photo by Harley Mills, DDC)

Cathy Brannon and Felecia Jones, Receiving Operations

operations in Afghanistan, the cold weather modules have been in high demand.

The modules’ home-like comforts provide a higher standard of living for soldiers, which increases morale and willingness to fight, said Thompson. “Army Materiel Command has been



(Photo by Harley Mills, DDC)

Marvin McKenzie (foreground), DDAG Employee of the Year, and DDC nominee for DLA Employee of the Quarter and Alvin Lundy (background), in the Surveillance Testing Center.

very pleased with the quality that is indicative of our workforce and the kind of people who are here to perform this mission,” said Thompson.

DDAG is the only DLA distribution center involved in the Army Force Provider program. The Force Provider mission also requires DDAG to test gas masks, ship and store bulk cloth, and store a large number of nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) items.



(Photo by Harley Mills, DDC)

Harry Hart, Bruno Brazile and Vivian Jackson, loading a Force Protection module.

“With each mission, we continue to meet and/or exceed support requirements under demanding work conditions and short deadlines,” Thompson said.

Like many of the DLA Distribution Centers, DDAG is undergoing a public-private competition for their mission work (A-76). The completion and development of a competitive proposal for a government Most Efficient Organization (MEO) for the upcoming A-76 announcement in March was another challenge and, according to Thompson, another success. “Our



(Photo by Harley Mills, DDC)

Roy Bradshaw working on a Force Provider module.

employees maintained a winning attitude and worked very diligently to ensure that we developed the best product available for evaluation,” Thompson said.

DDAG is located on one of two Marine Corps Logistics Bases (MCLB) with a very diversified range of missions and stock. DDAG is the primary source of storage and distribution of secondary repair parts and expendables for the Marine Corps Maintenance Facility on the MCLB Albany, Ga.

This Marine Corps Maintenance Facility repairs motorized wheel and track combat equipment to include tanks (Abrams, 110, retrievers), HUMMV (various configurations—personnel, launchers, communications, assault), trucks, and troop carriers. They also repair Marine Equipment Landing Craft, floating docks, folding bridges; and non-motorized combat wheel vehicles like howitzers and trailers.

DDAG supports each of these missions as well as providing vehicle components for all of these items like engines, transmissions, final drives, and axles.

MCLB Albany is involved in everything it takes to support a Marine unit like weapons—small arms (pistols, view scopes), rifles, shotguns, machine guns, and launchers; radar, communications equipment, fire control systems; engineering equipment like bulldozers, cranes, loaders, and excavating; and miscellaneous items like compressors, pumps, and water purification systems. DDAG also supplies chemical agent monitors, chemical agent detectors, radio sets, vehicle specific components, and electronic circuit cards.

DDAG also performs some unique missions that include providing all the transportation management functions for MCLB Albany and tenant activities. DDAG is responsible for two million square feet of storage space, special storage for radiological material, dehumidified storage for subsistence, and storage for textiles and clothing for all services worldwide.

DDAG’s staff accomplishes these diverse and difficult missions keeping three imperatives in mind: maintain safe working conditions, provide the best support for our customers; and make the necessary changes in their management processes and procedures to ensure that they provide effective and efficient distribution support.

Meeting these challenges with such ease is only possible with a dynamic, motivated workforce. “Collectively, I am proud of my entire work force for their dedication and ability to accomplish a myriad of tough tasks with success, time and time again,” Thompson said. “This has been done in light of manpower reductions and the uncertainty of our A-76 outcome in the near future.”

“The loyalty and work ethic of our work force is exemplified by our GS and Wage Grade employees of the year: Ms. Joann Lane and Mr. Marvin McKenzie. Their leadership, knowledge and willingness to accomplish any assignment to the best of their ability, while ensuring outstanding support to the customer, has been consistently commendable.”



Some of the DDAG FP containers in use in the Afghanistan Theater.

(Photo by Soldier Biological and Chemical Command)